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Activity Guide

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Jump, Frog, Jump!

ABOUT THE STORY

In this cumulative story, a frog must escape from a variety of threats. A fish, a snake, and a turtle try to eat it, a group of kids try to catch it — how can the frog get away?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Robert Kalan was born in Los Angeles, California, graduated from Claremont Men's College, and completed a master's degree in education at Claremont Graduate School. He is the author of several books for children.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Byron Barton is an author-artist with an outstanding list of picture books to his credit.

INTRODUCING THE STORY

Ask children to describe how various animals move: flies, snakes, turtles, and frogs. Children can demonstrate the movement for the class. Then tell them that the book they will read is about a frog who must move very quickly.

READING ACTIVITIES

Comprehension/Thinking Skills

- "Why does the frog jump the first time?"
- "What happens to the fish?"
- "What is the second threat to the frog?"
- "What is the final threat to the frog?"
- "How does the frog escape from the kids?"
- "When do you think the frog is in the greatest danger? Why?" (*Draw conclusions*)

Vocabulary

Write these action verbs from the story on the chalkboard. Explain that they are the past-tense forms of these irregular verbs:

swam	slid	ate	put
swim	slide	eat	put

Remind children that they form past-tense regular verbs by adding -ed. Tell them that the past-tense forms of irregular verbs are each different and must be memorized. Then ask them to use each of the verbs in a sentence.

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Health: Leapfrog

Children can jump like the frog in the story by playing Leapfrog. Explain how to play: one child is on hands and knees, and a second child leaps over the first, using hands to propel him or her, then crouches on hands and knees. A third child leaps over the first and then the second and crouches, and so on until all the children have had a chance to be the leaping frog.

Science: The Frog Life Cycle

Have children work in groups to find out how frogs develop. Ask them to use encyclopedias or other sources to create a step-by-step explanation of frog life, from egg to tadpole to adult frog. Children may illustrate their explanations. Display their finished work in the classroom.

Language Arts: Cumulative Story

Work with children to create a cumulative story for the class. Begin with the statement, "This is the oak tree that stood in the forest." Encourage children to add to the statement, always including the previous lines. A possible next step might be, "This is the acorn that fell from the oak tree that stood in the forest." Continue until everyone has had a turn.

Math: Size Order

Make several paper cutouts of each creature in the story. Have children work in groups to arrange the creatures in their real life size order. Children may come up with several different orderings, depending on the size of the cutouts, since the animals may be of different sizes in real life.

INTERNET ACTIVITY

Before you send children to do research using any of the keywords listed below, you may wish to try them yourself to be sure the sites are suitable.

Frogs Online

Have children find photographs of frogs on the Internet using the keywords *frogs* or *amphibians*. Encourage each child to print out a photograph of a frog. Children can label their frogs and collect them in a class frog book.